

Annotated
for Content
only.

My Life in Writing

By

title
identifies
purpose

audience awareness
"This September, my football team and I had a football game in the Indianapolis Colt's Stadium." That's the lead of one of last year's pieces. One of this year's leads goes something like this. "You go deeper into the sparkling blue ocean water. You dunk your head to meet a big gray sea creature gliding right next to you." Yeah, you get the point. I've learned about catchy beginnings for my writing from second grade and further.

reading connection
analysis
voice
Good writing comes from good teaching. Good writing also comes from reading good books. One of the reasons I have improved in writing is that I read a book called The Report Card. It's about a girl who has a hard time with her writing grades. Then she buckles down and gets her writing done. It gives a great example of the beginning of a portfolio piece. It explained what happened, when it happened, and how it changed her. After reading this, I thought, "*I could write like that,*" and I could. How about you? How did you get started in your writing?

reflection
supporting details
Teachers are good sources of information in writing too. The lesson my 4th grade teacher, Mrs. J. gave that helped me in writing the most was to prove it. This means that you need to give examples of what you write about. You need to tell what your experience is and explain

how you had it. For example tell what's involved, where it happened, when it happened, and how the situation got started. You need to show what's going on. Not just tell what's going on. This really helps in the process of writing a piece.

specific
details

Adding details (I'll admit) was one area I wasn't very good with. Details to me were just like getting ready for guests to visit my house. **NOT A BIG DEAL!!!** But that changed in the third grade, during my first conference to be precise. The first time Mrs. W saw my writing she said, "Child, you better buckle down and start adding some detail." My mind was then fixed on adding details. After that adding detail wasn't just a "no hustle" anymore. Actually, adding details in portfolio pieces was my #1 rule from then on. It wasn't easy, but now look at the good pieces I've written. Everything I've learned about writing is from parents and teachers.

Mc, being inspired to write? No way, well maybe just a little bit. Here's how the story goes. I was my dad's #1 fan. He was my favorite person in the whole world. So when I was struggling in writing, of course I went to him. But when I found out my dad really liked writing, I had to change my attitude about it. It was mostly because I wanted to be just like him. Yeah, I took his advice about adding more details and learned that writing can actually be pretty cool.

Editing helps me to find errors in my piece and helps to make it sound better. I have two ways to help me find mistakes in my writing. One, conference with a teacher. They can help you find mistakes easily. Two, have someone read my piece aloud. Hearing my piece read aloud sometimes helps me find mistakes that I wouldn't find reading it alone. When I hear my piece, man do I hear mistakes. Left and right they come at me. It's mistake mania! I remember the first time I had someone read a piece to me. I was very amazed by the mistakes I missed. From then on, I even sometimes read my own piece aloud while I'm working on it. That really helps me.

describes
own
strategies

reflection

Another way I enjoy writing is to write a letter to a friend. When writing in general, I like to add a lot of details. But when writing to a friend, the details would be what has happened, what is happening, and what will happen. I would make sure to use the "who, what, when, where, why, and how's." I like to add all of these when I'm writing to them because a lot of my friends are very far away in Washington State and I don't see them often. I really have to work to make it sound good.

sufficient
details

What's my favorite piece this year? That'll have to be my memoir. Not only because it brought back great memories but I learned new concepts about writing. Take brainstorming for example. First, we had to think of what we wanted to write about. Then, we had to think of when it happened, what's the relationship you had with it, those

describes
process

kinds of things. Thinking of these types of memories helped me put together a proficient piece.

reflection

I didn't write at all in kindergarten and first grades. So, I didn't get all the writing experience I needed. But when I did start writing, I actually thought it was pretty fun. I mean, it wasn't that bad. Things got a little harder in third grade. But I could handle it. Now, in the fourth grade, writing is more difficult. It's sometimes hard. We have longer pieces to write and we have to choose our own topic. I guess you could say it's not my favorite subject. The point is, the higher the grade levels, the harder the writing seems to be. You have to tell yourself you're going to get it over with. Then just jot your ideas down and put together your piece.

voice

I hope this piece has given you tips for writing. All you have to do is follow directions and always listen to your teacher for advice. That reminds me of the time.... never mind. Just follow these tips and you will be able to create a proficient piece. That's all the time we have for now, and remember, always listen to your teacher. They know best.

4/6/07

Instructional Implications:

Instruction should focus on maintaining a focused purpose throughout. Student tended to focus on the enjoyment of writing in a few places.

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